

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 10525 220833Z
ACTION EB-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, RP
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-PHILIPPINES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 157247, (B) MANILA 10385

1. SUMMARY. NEW GOP INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICY STATEMENT IS CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL, BUT NEXT ROUND OF US/RP TALKS SHOULD REVEAL WHETHER THERE IS ANY LIBERALIZATION IN GOP POLICY. LINES FOR TALKS APPEAR WELL DRAWN, AND BOTH SIDES SEEM READY FOR A NEW BEGINNING. END SUMMARY.

2. COMPOSITION OF USDEL PASSED TO VESTA CAYUGAN OF MFA ON JUNE 22. SHE HAS RECEIVED SIMILAR NOTIFICATION FROM PHILEMBASSY WASHINGTON.

3. MS. CAYUGAN TELLS US THAT NEW CIVIL AVIATION POLICY STATEMENT WAS APPROVED BY PRIME MINISTER MARCOS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, BUT IT IS CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL. SHE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENT. WE BELIEVE STATEMENT WILL EVENTUALLY SURFACE BUT NOT BEFORE THE UPCOMING US/RP ROUND NEXT WEEK, WHICH IN ANY CASE WILL REVEAL WHETHER THERE IS ANY LIBERALIZATION OF GOP CIVIL AVIATION POLICY.

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3. LINES FOR UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR FIRMLY AND CLEARLY DRAWN. IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM FOR GOP AND PAL APPEARS TO BE RIGHTS TO GUAM (WHICH THEY CONSIDER AS HAVING BEEN PAID FOR) AND LOS ANGELES. DURING RECENT WEEKS NORTHWEST STRIKE HAS BEEN BUMPING HARD AGAINST IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM, PARTICULARLY SINCE STRIKE HAS NOT ONLY CUT INTO

TOURIST INFLOW FOR HARDPRESSED HOTELS BUT HAS ALSO RESULTED IN HARSH WORDS AND UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCES BY TRAVELLERS WHO ARRIVED BUT CANNOT GET OUT.

4. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION, AND THE PHIL CONVICTION, THAT THE U.S. SIDE HAS CONCEDED GUAM AND IS NOW READY TO CONCEDE LOS ANGELES. THE QUESTION IS HOW TO GET THE MAXIMUM FOR THE U.S. CARRIERS. ONE APPROACH IS TO COMPLETE THE PREVIOUS ROUND, THAT IS, THE GOP HAVING LISTED ITS MAXIMUM, IT IS NOW THE USG TURN TO DO SO.

5. WE BELIEVE GOP IS INTERESTED IN ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES AND MAY EVEN MOVE AWAY FROM A FIXED SCHEDULE TO A FORMULA FOR AUTOMATIC INCREASES. BARGAINING WOULD COME DOWN TO RIGHTS SUCH AS TAIPEI FOR NORTHWEST, SINGAPORE OR OTHER ONWARDS FOR PANAM, AND OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY FOR FLYING TIGERS.

6. TIANSAI/BROWN MEETING PRIOR TO FORMAL OPENING SHOULD FURNISH OCCASION FOR FRANK AND DIRECT DISCUSSION. WE APPEAR FINALLY READY, AND SO DO THE PHILS, AND THE PRIVATE MEETING MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT. MURPHY

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